



Volunteer Opportunities

Taking the opportunity to share your passions with all ages, in an environment you love, is something we should all do in our life. If your passion is to protect and manage the forest, fish, and wildlife resources of the state of Missouri, or to facilitate and provide opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources, then volunteering for the Missouri Department of Conservation is a perfect place for you. Whether it is leading a program about wooly worms, teaching students to properly use archery equipment, teaching individuals and groups how to identify and catch fish, or answering questions of visitors to the local nature center, there are opportunities for almost everyone. "Behind the scenes" opportunities are also available such as taking care of exhibit/program animals, and monitoring wildlife and habitat.

In the St. Louis Region there are two staffed shooting ranges: Jay Henges Shooting Range just off Hwy 44 at Antire Road and Busch Shooting Range in St. Charles. The Busch range is currently closed for renovations and is scheduled to reopen in 2017. Both facilities use volunteers to help manage the range and provide programming on various topics. Outdoor Skills Specialists use volunteers throughout the region to assist with teaching Hunter Education classes. Other volunteer opportunities are similar at our interpretive sites: Powder Valley, Rockwoods Reservation, Busch Conservation Area, Columbia Bottom, and Forest Park. These opportunities include animal care and program assistants. Animal care assistants help feed, clean, and monitor health of the fish, reptiles, and amphibians that are on display and used for programming. At some sites this may also include the filling and cleaning of bird feeders. Program assistants help with developing and presenting programs, events, and activities both onsite and at various locations. Powder Valley also uses volunteers specifically for greeting and helping visitors at the nature center's front desk, as well as assisting visitors with items in the gift shop and answering phones when needed. At Columbia Bottom volunteers help monitor animal and plant populations at the site. In most cases volunteer meetings occur every month.



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the site you are interested in or contact Katie Zimmer, St. Louis regional volunteer coordinator.

*By KATIE ZIMMER,
St. Louis regional volunteer coordinator*

Volunteer Contacts

Katie Zimmer
St. Louis Regional Volunteer Coordinator
Outreach and Education Division
2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-300-1953 x4160

Catherine McGrane
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
314-301-1506 x4218

Colleen Scott
August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area
Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
314-877-6019 x4241

Amy Wilkinson
Forest Park
Rockwoods Reservation
314-877-1309 x1987

Bryant Hertel
Busch Shooting Range and
Outdoor Education Center
636-300-1953 x4126

Tony Legg
Jay Henges Shooting Range and
Outdoor Education Center
636-938-3253 x1751

Managed Archery Deer Hunt

Powder Valley's building and trails are CLOSED Saturday, November 7, through Monday, November 9, for a managed archery deer hunt. See Powder Valley pages for more information.

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

April 1 – November 30
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – March 31
Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Introduction to Skeet Shooting

Nov 3 • Tuesday • 6 – 9 p.m. and

Nov 4 • Wednesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Experienced shotgun shooters only, ages 11 and up)

Want to learn another shotgun skill to help with your hunting or just have a change of pace? This two-night skeet program may be for you. Night one is mandatory classroom training at the Jay Henges Education Center classroom. Night two is at the nearby St. Louis Skeet and Trap range in Pacific. Although equipment and 12 and 20 gauge ammunition is provided, participants may bring their own shotgun and/or ammunition the second night. (Registration begins Oct 3.)

Women's Beginning Handgun

Nov 5 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Women only, ages 16 and up)

Want to start hunting or target shooting with a handgun? This program will include basic handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. The course includes classroom instruction and a live-fire session on the range. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin Oct 5.)

Beginner's Modern Muzzleloading Rifle

Nov 7 • Saturday • 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

This program teaches the basic knowledge, skills, and attitude essential for the safe and efficient use of a modern muzzleloading rifle. The course includes classroom instruction and time on a range shooting a muzzleloading rifle. Rifles, powder, ammunition, and equipment are provided. Participants wishing to bring their own modern muzzleloading rifles to the range portion must provide their own powder, bullets, primers, etc. (Reservations begin Oct 7.)

Basic Rifle Care, Cleaning, and Storage

Nov 17 • Tuesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Even new firearms from the store must be cleaned and properly lubricated before being fired. Whether a family heirloom, expensive sporting or competition gun, or a hard-working basic firearm, it needs proper care and attention to keep it working and preventing worn or damaged parts. Learn the proper techniques to care for your firearm. All firearms and equipment will be provided, no personal rifles allowed. (Reservations begin Oct 17.)

Beginning Youth, .22 Caliber Rimfire Target Rifle

Nov 28 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.

(First time rifle shooters, ages 9 – 15)

Interested young people who have no experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in this session on safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled, safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin Oct 28.)

Coming in December

Basic Cold Weather Survival

Dec 2 • Wednesday • 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

REMINDER The August A. Busch Shooting Range is closed for a total renovation. For more information see our website <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/august-busch-shooting-range> and visit our blog <http://mdc.mo.gov/blogs/busch-range-renovations>

You may also see progress on the renovation by visiting the web cam at <http://www.workzonecam.com/projects/worldwide/buschrange/workzonecam2>



Due to the range closure, all Busch Range programs will be held at the August A. Busch Conservation Area classrooms in the St. Louis Regional Office unless otherwise noted.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

Youth/Women's Duck Hunt

Nov 4 · Wednesday · 6 – 8 p.m.

(Ages 11 – 15 for youth)

(Ages 11 and up for women)

This program is for youth and women who have never been duck hunting and want to learn how to become successful at this rewarding activity. On November 4, we will meet at the August A. Busch Conservation Area classroom for a clinic where we will cover safety, clothing, blind and decoy placement, and more. Tentative dates for the hunts are Saturday, November 7, for youth and Sunday, November 8, for women, when we will head to the wetland area at Busch and do an actual duck hunt. Youth hunt is for ages 11-15, women ages 11 and up. Youth participants must be accompanied by an adult to the clinic. All participants MUST be Hunter Education Certified and MUST attend the clinic to be able participate in the hunt. (Reservations begin October 5.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DST
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Birdfeeders and Beyond

Nov 10 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

Come learn about the changes fall brings to the birds we love to watch. There are changes to the kinds of birds around us, the kinds of food they eat, their behavior, and sometimes even their coloring. Also we will learn how fall brings new opportunities to help birds survive the approaching bad weather. Putting up birdfeeders is a big help. Beyond that, we can also consider supplying heated water, providing roosting boxes, or establishing beneficial plantings for a natural source of food and shelter. (Reservations begin Oct 22.)

Scout Tables: Endangered Species

Nov 14 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

Our Scout Discovery Tables help Boy Scouts earn portions of badges relating to nature and wildlife. For November, the spotlight will be on endangered species of Missouri. In this self-led program, you will learn the current status of some of our species of concern and what has caused them to become threatened. Also learn how you can help. Discovery Tables are open to scout groups as well as the general public. Bears: Fur, Feathers, Ferns #2; Boy Scouts: Reptiles: #4, Nature #1, #2, Environmental #2, #3e, Fish Management #6b, Forestry #3a8. (No reservations necessary.)

Just So Stories...or Just So?

Nov 17 • Tuesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 – 6 years)

Why does the opossum play dead? Is the coyote really a crafty, sneaky animal? Myths have been written and told over the centuries to explain oddities about animals that weren't really understood. Come to Powder Valley to hear some Native American folklore stories, and the truth behind the myths. We will make a take-home craft, too. (Reservations begin Nov 3.)

SAVE THE DATE!

Noppadol Paothong

Learning to See: Photography Tips and the Story of Making Images

Dec 4 • Friday • 7 p.m.

(All ages)

Ever wonder what it takes to be a nature photographer? MDC's very own award winning photographer, Noppadol Paothong, will do a photo presentation of how to take pictures beyond the basics and share some inside stories of his images that have appeared in the *Missouri Conservationist Magazine*. His work has been recognized with over 60 regional and national awards, including *Best of Best in Photo* from the Outdoor Writers Association of America in 2013, three time finalist in *BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year*, and the *Award of Excellence in Wildlife* in the Nikon Photo Contest International. Please call 314-301-1500 for reservations.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Managed Archery Deer Hunt

Powder Valley's building and trails will be CLOSED Saturday, November 7, through Monday, November 9, for a managed archery deer hunt.

Missouri offers numerous managed deer hunts for archery, crossbow, muzzleloading, and modern firearms from mid-September through January. One of the archery hunts this year will be held at Powder Valley. Long term, the effects of too many deer include significant habitat destruction, higher disease rate, and stress on the animals. Goals of managed hunts include balancing healthy habitat with a healthy deer population and continued viewing opportunities.



Reminder:

Trail hours will be change to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the end of Daylight Saving Time !

Nature Shop Special -

20% off

Cooking Wild in Missouri
by Bernadette Dryden



POWDER VALLEY OCTOBER EXHIBITS

JUNIOR DUCK STAMP EXHIBIT

Powder Valley once again welcomes the Junior Duck Stamp "Best of Show" pieces during the month of November. The Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service each year. The program is a dynamic arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. First place winners from each state advance to the national competition.

For information on the Junior Duck Stamp Program please visit

<http://www.fws.gov/birds/education/junior-duck-stamp-conservation-program/junior-duck-stamp-contest-information.php>

THE ART WORLD ASSOCIATION

Powder Valley welcomes the return of The Art World Association. The Art World Association has been active in the arts since its founding in 1963 as a fine arts and fine crafts organization. This nonprofit organization includes professional and nonprofessional members who hold exhibitions in the St. Louis area.

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Feed a Feathered Friend

Nov 2 • Monday • noon – 2 p.m.

(All Ages)

After a hot summer, fall brings bright colors and cooler temperatures that excite people around the state. Birds on the other hand are looking for food to stay warm during these brisk nights. Backyard bird feeders are a great way for birds to get food and for residents to become more acquainted with their feathered friends. Participants will learn about some frequent birdfeeder birds and make a birdfeeder to take home. (Reservations start Oct 17.)

Dutch Oven Cooking

Nov 7 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Families)

Cast iron cooking can enhance any experience in nature. There are certainly tasty benefits to practicing this valuable outdoor skill. Discover the basics of Dutch oven cooking, including how to prepare food, temperature control, cleaning, and more. We will provide all the fixings and coffee, too. (Reservations run Oct 13 – 17.)

A Dog Day at CBCA

Nov 14 • Saturday • 9 – 11 a.m.

(All Ages)

Autumn is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and discover the beauty of Columbia Bottom. If you are a dog-lover, this is the hike for you! All dogs must be on-leash at all times. We will have a meet-and-greet at the Slough Parking Lot, then enjoy a walk through the woods to the Confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and back. Anyone can participate, with or without a dog. Only one dog per human. Rabies certificate good through the day of program MUST be provided. (Reservations begin Oct 30.)

Missourians care about conserving forest, fish, and wildlife.



August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

Orienteering With Map and Compass

Nov 7 • Saturday • 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Nov 14 • Saturday • 6 – 9:30 p.m.

(Families with children 10 and up)

No trail to follow on this two to three mile, off-trail, hiking experience at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. Day 1, Nov. 7: Learn to use a map and compass while in the classroom. Test new skills at finding fixed landmarks out in nature while off-trail. Day 2, Nov. 14: Return with your family to navigate the same course as Day 1, only this time . . . at night! Armed with flashlights, laser pointers, maps, compasses and each other, you'll have an unforgettable family outing. Effort is easy to moderate, 2 to 3 miles over gentle hills. Briars and thick vegetation is present but can be avoided. (Reservations run Oct 26 – Nov 6.)



Night Hike on Busch Hiking/Biking Trail

Nov 21 • Saturday • 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

(Adults)

How does the night sound? Experience it first hand, during a moderate hike at the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. We may hear coyotes howling or several different species of owls calling. The trail is approximately 3 ½ miles in length. Dress for the weather. Bring water and snacks. This hike is rated moderate. (Reservations begin Nov 6.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Gifts To and From Nature

Nov 12 • Thursday • 4 – 5:30 p.m.

(Ages 5 and up)

Fall is a favorite time to discover the beauty of nature. Use natural materials to create a masterpiece all your own. All supplies will be provided for you to decorate a wreath or invent your own décor. You'll leave with a gift for you and one for wildlife in your backyard. Meet at the Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center. (Reservations begin Oct 22.)

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



All About Bears

Nov 5 • Thursday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 6 – 10)

What kind of bear is found in Missouri? What do they need to survive? Could a bear live in your yard? We'll learn all about these quiet forest mammals and take a short hike to search Rockwoods for bear habitat. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin Oct 22.)

Bird Feeders

Nov 14 • Saturday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Families)

Learn about our feathered friends and how to help them through the cold winter months. Build a bird feeder to take home. One per family. Please bring a hammer and dress for the weather, as we will be building outside. (Reservations begin Oct 24.)

Turkey Trek

Nov 14 • Saturday • 1 – 3 p.m.

(Families)

How much do you know about Missouri's largest bird, the wild turkey? Their restoration in our state is an amazing story of conservation in action. Join us for an invigorating mid-November hike of the 2-mile Turkey Ridge Trail. As we progress along the trail we will talk about the habitat, food, habits and calls of wild turkeys. If we are really lucky, we may even see or hear some! Effort = Moderate 2.0 miles with hills (Reservations begin Oct 30.)

Fall Hiking Club

Nov 8, 14, and 15 • Saturdays or Sundays • 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Join us to explore conservation areas with a Naturalist guide. Hikes range from 1.5 – 5 miles in length. We'll observe the unique features of each area, so bring your camera and guidebooks. A photo-sharing social will end our hike series. Reservations will be taken for each hike, and participants may attend any number of hikes. Programs start at trail heads; directions will be provided to all participating hikers. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous for hiking up to 5 miles over uneven terrain. (Reservations begin Oct 16.)

Nov 8 – 1 p.m.: Weldon Spring CA, Clark Trail, 5 miles

Nov 14 – 11 a.m.: Rockwoods Reservation, Trail Among the Trees, 1.5 miles

Nov 15 – 1 p.m.: Photo-sharing Social, Rockwoods Reservation